

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's extremely thorough review of the present application, and respectfully request reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-33 are pending in the application. The original claims have been amended, where appropriate, to better define the claimed invention. New claim 33 has been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

In the sections below, Applicants will address each and every point raised in the Office Action, using the same paragraph numbering.

1. The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation.
2. The Title has been amended to be more descriptive of the claimed invention, substantially as suggested by the Examiner in paragraph 2 of the Office Action.
3. Claim 1 has been amended in the manner kindly suggested by the Examiner.
4. Claim 1 has been amended in the manner kindly suggested by the Examiner.

Note A: paragraph (c) of claim 1 has also been amended solely to improve claim language, without otherwise touching the merits, i.e., --generating a common co-occurrence matrix having rows and columns in which components have values defined as products of values of components of the same rows and the same columns of the co-occurrence matrices--.

5. Claim 2 has been amended in the manner kindly suggested by the Examiner, similarly to points 3-4.

Note B: paragraph (c) of claim 2 has also been amended solely to improve claim language, without otherwise touching the merits, in a manner similar to Note A.

6. Claim 2 has been amended in the manner kindly suggested by the Examiner.

7. The Examiner's suggestion has not been adopted. The preamble and paragraph (d) of claim 2 have been revised to remove "document *segment* - document set commonality." Paragraph (d) has been further amended to clearly define the claimed invention which is now directed to "document - document set commonality." The amendments find support in page 16, the first full paragraph immediately below equation (10).

8. Claim 3 has been amended in the manner kindly suggested by the Examiner, similarly to points 3-4.

9. Claim 3 has been amended in the manner kindly suggested by the Examiner.

10. Claim 3 has been amended *substantially* as suggested by the Examiner.

11. The Examiner's suggestion has not been adopted. The preamble and paragraph (e) of claim 3 have been revised to clarify that, in claim 3, "a document set commonality of mismatch allowance type" (original claim 3 in (e)) or --a mismatch allowance document set commonality-- (amended claim 3) is being evaluated. The original wording "common co-occurrence matrix of a mismatch allowance type" has also been revised to read as --mismatch allowance common co-occurrence matrix--. The amendments find support in page 17, lines 3-7, and page 18, the second line above equation (11).

Note C: paragraph (c) of claim 3 has been amended solely to improve claim language, without otherwise touching the merits, in a manner similar to Note A, and to recite "non-zero values," i.e., --generating a mismatch allowance common co-occurrence matrix having rows and columns in which components have values defined as products of non-zero values of components

of the same rows and the same columns of the co-occurrence matrices--. The amendments find support in page 17, line 6.

12. Claim 4 has been amended in the manner kindly suggested by the Examiner, similarly to points 3-4. In addition, “such document segment vectors” in paragraph (b) has been changed to – the document segment vectors --.

13. Claim 4 has been amended in the manner kindly suggested by the Examiner.

14. Claim 4 has been amended *substantially* as suggested by the Examiner, similarly to point 10.

Note D: claim 4 has been amended, where appropriate, in manner similar to claim 3 as detailed above at point 11 and Note C.

15. Claim 4 has been amended in the manner kindly suggested by the Examiner.

Note E: Paragraph (f) of claim 4 has been amended similarly to claim 2 as detailed above at point 7.

16-19. Claims 5-8 have been amended in the manner kindly suggested by the Examiner.

20-23. Dependency of claims 9-12 have been amended in the manner kindly suggested by the Examiner.

24-27. Claims 13-16 have been amended in the manner kindly suggested by the Examiner.

28-31. Claims 21-24 have been amended in the manner kindly suggested by the Examiner, similarly to claims 5-8, respectively.

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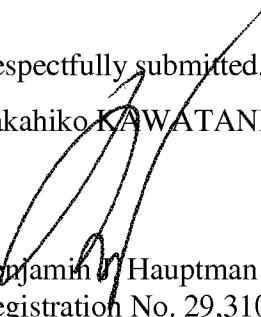
32-35. Dependency of claims 25-28 have been amended in the manner kindly suggested by the Examiner.

36. The Examiner's observation is noted with appreciation.

New claim 33 finds solid support in the application as filed, e.g., FIG. 3 at boxes 38-39, and the corresponding text, especially page 10, lines 8-9 and page 15, the first full paragraph immediately below equation (6). New claim 33 also includes all limitations (i.e., (a)-(d)) of allowable claim 1. The new claim is therefore believed patentable.

Each of the issues raised in the Office Action has been overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
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